

2011 Washington State Joint Energy Assistance and Weatherization Summit October 5, 2011

“Using Data from the FY 2010 Weatherization Evaluation to Reassess the Weatherization Program”

Group Brainstorm

After Steve Payne’s brief summary of the FY 2010 Weatherization Evaluation recommendations, Weatherization Session participants broke into two groups to brainstorm changes that will make the Weatherization Program more efficient and effective.

Group 1 (Greg Black facilitating)

- L & I more efficient
- Combine contracts
- One contract
- Commerce tracks funding
- Better notice about contract extensions
- Prevailing wage job description for weatherization
- Clear prioritization on WX measures
- Empower auditor – fix systemic errors – trust auditor more
- Turn key contracts
- Neighborhood focus for impact
- Same average cost per unit for all fund sources
- One form for all sign offs
- Prioritizing diagnostics
- Better definition of H & S issues
- More standardized forms
- Better process for forms (packet for all forms)
- Better collaboration with LIHEAP & ESP on client ed
- Use eval. for state announcement
- Prescriptive approach to WX
- Refining priority list
- Improve monitor consistency
- iPhone spec. app.
- Management training
- Policy & procedure training
- Advanced notice training schedule with more consistency
- Better & quicker response from Commerce on questions

Group 2 (Brigid Flynn facilitating) (LEAN Weatherization)

- Request WX worker wage rate
- Eliminate state prevailing wage
- L & I set up correct wage rates for WX workers
- Barrier = moving away from multi-family but leg. wants more units (conflict)
- Figure out how to serve more people with less money
- E-vouchering
- H & S – set a limit per unit
 - Not average cost, but a limit
 - Fewer non-energy expenses
- Relax spending restrictions on contracts
- Set spending limit per unit instead of average cost per unit
- Set same average cost per unit for all fund sources
- Behavior-driven WX services
- Better standardization of key terms
 - Need to be identified (terms)
 - Education of what terms mean
- One contract for all fund sources
- Better understanding of “pooling” methods by Commerce (of fund sources)
- Simplifying policies, procedures, and specs
- Focus on target populations, including high energy burden and utilities (expense)
- No TREAT; go back to priority list
- Adopt prescriptive approach to WX (i.e. PSE)
- Small fund available for WX jobs that don’t fit under “legal” use of grant
- Labor rates regarding pipe wrap, furnace ducting system, (\$30/hour or more!!!)
- Costs for intents and affidavits – look at this
- Evaluation/recommendation of wage rate issues
 - WSU
 - Legal exemption
 - Exception for improving homes not up to code – client better off (even if home not up to code)
- Exclusions for WX work done on substandard homes (code exception)
- Wages
 - “WX technician”
 - Carpentry
 - Insulation
 - Etc.
- State sales tax: Commerce send local agencies an FAQ
- Sales tax exemption
 - Clarify what Commerce can do on its own and what other entities need to do (for example L&I and Dept. of Revenue)